

MEETING MINUTES

Joint Broward Water Resources Task Force and Technical Team

Friday, March 6, 2009, 11:00 AM

Broward County Government Center West
1 N. University Drive, 2nd Floor Hearing Room
Plantation, Florida 33324

Summary:

The meeting began at 11:05 AM. Chair Estenoz asked for roll call which was taken (see attendance list below). The Chair then moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting. They were unanimously approved. Ms. Estenoz then introduced the subjects that would be discussed in today's meeting and mentioned that the Task Force would hear from John Mulliken on some revised demand projections and from Directors of two of Broward's major utilities. She also mentioned that the group would talk about future meeting dates and project proposals forthcoming from the Tech Team.

Chair Estenoz then moved to Technical Team Chair Albert Perez' report. Mr. Perez mentioned that the Tech Team's objective was to look at five case studies and come back at the April WRTF meeting with some concepts for short and long term projects.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of proposed changes to the schedule of Broward WRTF meetings. Dr. Jurado discussed a possible date for a joint meeting with the Palm Beach Water Resources Task Force. She stated that the Palm Beach WRTF has a meeting scheduled for March 19 and at a previous meeting of their task force a presentation was provided on the C-51 Reservoir Project. Their tech team was asked to provide additional information on the status and issues of that project. Dr. Jurado mentioned that if a joint meeting of the Broward WRTF and the Palm Beach WRTF was held in May, it would be a good opportunity to discuss that project. If the Broward does not meet with Palm Beach then, it is proposed that water conservation be discussed at the May Broward WRTF meeting. Chair Estenoz suggested that if a joint meeting is held in May, then a presentation on the C-51 project to the Broward WRTF should be provided in April.

A discussion of whether or not the Broward WRTF should take a summer hiatus ensued. It was decided that the WRTF would meet on July 10 and there would be no meeting in August.

Chair Estenoz then mentioned a letter from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Secretary Sole on stimulus funding, noting that there were 10 Broward projects on the list. She indicated that she will try and get some information out about those projects, but pointed out that the State Legislature can move funds around. The Vice-Chair asked for a clarification on how the funds would be moved and a discussion ensued. It was clear that there were still a number of uncertainties regarding how the stimulus funding will work.

The Chair then turned to John Mulliken, Director of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Water Supply Planning Division, who stated that a subcommittee of the Broward WRTF Technical Team had been formed to address the 10-year Water Facility Work Plans. He stated further that some plans were still under review, or had not been completed,

and that the Technical Team would be talking about updated population projections today at the Technical Team meeting to be held following the Task Force meeting.

Presentations then followed. The first presentation was by John Mulliken, who presented revised water supply projections. Mr. Mulliken referred to the December WRTF presentation and said that new population numbers were in and they would be working to revise projections. He added the caveat that the new numbers have yet to be distributed to local governments, but he believed the numbers he was sharing today are in the ballpark and will be suitable for planning purposes. He shared slides of the dry Everglades and mentioned that enforcement of 2-day watering restrictions has been lax and that municipalities will be hearing about the need to increase enforcement. The District is closely monitoring water conditions. Lake Okeechobee is 2.5' higher than last year, but it is dropping like a rock. The District is moving water into the conservation areas to hold up groundwater levels. Away from the canals, low water levels are being observed and they are starting to look at potential danger areas. Spring could be dicey and the District may have to take actions. Rainfall in Eastern Broward is 82% below normal since the beginning of the dry season and there is a growing fire danger. The Chair interjected that it has been the third driest dry season since 1934 and the days are numbered as to how long the District can deliver water to western Broward County. Mr. Mulliken then continued and said that based on revised estimates, there are big changes to the water demand numbers. It is now estimated that 16 utilities need less than 1 million gallons per day (MGD) through 2025. He mentioned that Broward County has become a leader in getting facility work plans to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (FDCA) and through the process, 28 of 32 work plans have been submitted. Additionally, per capita consumption has come way down due to restrictions, but it is starting to creep up. It is the District's hope to keep the per capita usage in the lower range. There was a discussion of one of Mr. Mulliken's graphics showing water usage over time. A comparison to the 2001 drought was made showing that after the drought the per capita usage shot back up. There was then a discussion of what part of per capita usage is irrigation. Mr. Mulliken showed projections from various sources including the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan update, 10-Year Water Supply Facility Work Plans, and water use permit renewals, all which had been completed before the latest Broward County population model numbers were released. Originally, it was projected that 106 new MGD would be needed by 2025, now interim SFWMD numbers indicate 47 MGD, and the latest Broward population model numbers suggest that just 20 MGD of new water will be needed by 2025. This presents new opportunities and increases flexibility. He showed a bar chart on this same information and indicated there is a slight increase in how much water can be allocated from the Biscayne Aquifer (now 264 MGD). Overall, the projections now being considered include about a 5% decrease in per capita use and a 2025 population decrease of 162,000 people. He provided a graphic of current water demands which showed the Biscayne allocation, the 2025 finished water demand, and the FDEP rated capacity of existing treatment plants, and noted that on the eastern part of the County there is additional treatment capacity. Where treatment capacity exists and where there are unmet needs is a good place to look at where partnering opportunities might exist. He discussed unmet water needs exceeding the Biscayne allocation and potential water supplies from future proposed Floridan Aquifer projects. He then showed a graphic of Floridan projects. He pointed out that we need to be cautious about making generalizations as there are many utility-specific factors. The Floridan projects presented represent commitments through 2013. Mr. Mulliken mentioned that deferral of any alternative projects reflected in a utility's Consumptive Use Permit will require permit modification. He referred to the slide again pointing out the unmet

needs in 2025 beyond Biscayne allocations. He then shared his conclusions. Infrastructure needed by 2025 is greatly reduced given the new demand projections. Potential for regional and subregional projects still exists, and given the new projections, there is more time to develop options. Additionally, there are opportunities for greater savings through conservation, and for many utilities, there may be opportunities to reduce the now projected 20 MGD shortfall even further, and reuse projects such as the Miramar approach may help more utilities.

Chair Estenoz made a point that this is great news and it provides the Task Force with options. It was noted that the issue of utilizing the 45 MGD of wastewater currently discharged through ocean outfalls was not included in these projections, and will need to be discussed at greater length. There was additional discussion of per capita usage and what portion of that is irrigation and Chair Estenoz offered that one should not necessarily focus strictly on per capita numbers. For example, Boca Raton has a stain ordinance so they have to use water from the grid. If you still have a low per capita usage and are on the grid, then you are in good shape.

The Chair then introduced a presentation by Albert Perez, Director of Public Utilities for the City of Hollywood, as members were encouraged to grab their lunch. Mr. Perez presented Hollywood's planning efforts to meet their future water supply needs, including overview of the Hollywood water system and service area, water supply sources, and treatment processes. He indicated that 12 MGD is produced through membrane filtration, and 10-12 MGD from lime softening. He went on to discuss treatment capacities by process, forecasted water demands through 2030, and projected water supply shortfalls. He mentioned that Hollywood is looking to provide total finished water of 36.1 MGD. He went on to discuss impacts of the Regional Water Availability Rule and discussed loss and stranded capacity. He shared Hollywood's forecasted demands and the proposed reverse osmosis (RO) incremental expansions needed through 2030 in 2 MGD steps corresponding to actual growth. There was a question about which utilities are pursuing Floridan development and another question on how to choose which technology to use. Mr. Perez indicated that Hollywood's approach is to try to use a blend that produces the highest quality water to meet water quality standards and minimize treatment costs. The driving factor is water quality. Technology is improving treatment processes and bringing down costs as membrane elements are becoming more efficient. There was a discussion of maximum day demand and average day demand.

Chair Estenoz then introduced the third presentation by Hector Castro, Director of Utilities for the City of Sunrise. As Hector was getting ready to make his presentation, she mentioned that she had just heard from FDEP Secretary Sole's office regarding stimulus funds. She mentioned that there is \$88 million in stimulus dollars for drinking water projects and \$134 million for wastewater and stormwater projects. There is also an additional \$250 million that FDEP has bonded. The money needs to be spent this year, and there are almost \$1 billion in projects on the priority list. She mentioned it is most important to get projects on the list. Stimulus dollars are "use it or lose it", so as we proceed with spending, if cities don't use the funds, other projects on the list would be considered. The more need an entity can demonstrate, the better. There was a discussion of the funds available to disadvantaged communities – apparently none qualify in Broward County. Of \$88 million for drinking water projects, \$44M will go to disadvantaged communities, with the remainder available for other communities. The take-home message was that if the project is not on the list, a municipality

should work to get it on the list. The priority list does not consider the source of project funding.

Mr. Castro then discussed the water facilities plan prepared by Sunrise. He indicated that the Task Force would look at two facility plans at this meeting and two at the next meeting. He showed Sunrise's water service area of about 70 square miles. He discussed their supply wells and water treatment plants, their water system capacity in average annual daily flow, and explained that while the Springtree treatment facility has a capacity of 24 MGD, they have a permitted capacity of only 10.7 MGD. He explained that Sunrise is permitted to produce 31.4 MGD, but has a treatment capacity of 44 MGD. Mr. Castro went on to discuss population projections, the need for 13 MGD of alternative water supply by 2030, and how they will accomplish this. He discussed the Sawgrass 4.0 MGD facility (to be completed by 2013) and the 7 MGD Park City (proposed) Floridan projects. He discussed the estimated costs - \$20 million for 4MGD at Sawgrass, a reclaim facility at Southwest costing \$24 million and the 7 MGD RO Floridan at Park City, costing \$49 million. This is the plan that was submitted in August to SFWMD and FDCA.

The Chair asked Mr. Mulliken at what point the District would be doing a review of permit renewals. Mr. Mulliken indicated they will be working with each of the utilities to go over the projections by five-year increments and they will see then where facilities may be needed. He pointed out that many plans already have an alternative water supply component. There was a discussion of modifying permits. Richard Blattner, Commissioner with the City of Hollywood, mentioned that he would like a discussion of costs and timing and partnerships. Chair Estenoz said that this is the central issue and will be the crux of where we will go from here. Impending outfall closures will almost certainly require a subregional approach.

The Chair inquired whether there is a reason to coordinate with the County's Climate Change Task Force. Barry Heimlich mentioned there is an ongoing Florida Atlantic University study that addresses implications of sea level rise on water management in South Florida.

Chair Estenoz concluded the Task Force meeting by saying she had a summary of all proposed legislative bills dealing with water that she would share with the group at a later time. There was a motion to adjourn which was seconded. The meeting ended at 1 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Task Force:

Lisa Aronson, Vice Mayor, City of Coconut Creek
Douglas Bell, Chair, Central Broward Water Control District Board of Commissioners
Richard Blattner, Commissioner, City of Hollywood
Shannon Estenoz, Governing Board Member, South Florida Water Management District
Lamar Fisher, Mayor at Large, City of Pompano Beach
Beth Flansbaum-Talabisco, Mayor, City of Tamarac
Tom Good, Treasurer, South Broward Drainage District
Glen Hanks, Secretary, Coral Springs Improvement District Board of Supervisors
Kristin Jacobs, Commissioner, Broward County Board of County Commissioners
Richard Kaplan, Mayor, City of Lauderhill

Jack McCluskey, Commissioner, City of Pembroke Pines
Donald Rosen, Deputy Mayor, City of Sunrise
Allegra Webb-Murphy, Commissioner, City of Oakland Park

Technical Team:

William Brant, Public Works Director, City of Hallandale Beach
Steven Bassett, Eco Advisors, for the So. Fla. Chapter U.S. Green Building Council
Hank Breitenkam, Director of Utilities, City of Plantation
Linda Brien, Administrator, Water Facilities Program, FDEP Southeast District
Heather Cuniff, City Planner, City of Lauderhill
Hector Castor, Director of Utilities, City of Sunrise
Ray Gagnon, Director of Utilities, City of Tamarac
Alan Garcia, Director, Broward County Water & Wastewater Services
Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Division
Dylan Larson, Miller-Legg, for the Builders Association of South Florida
Julie Leonard, Asst. Utility Services Director-Operations, City of Fort Lauderdale
Joe McLaughlin, Professional Engineer, City of Pembroke Pines
John Mulliken, Director, SFWMD Water Supply Planning Division
Leo Schwartzberg, Director, South Broward Drainage District
Albert Perez, Director of Public Utilities, City of Hollywood
Raj Verma, Director of Utilities and Engineering, City of Coconut Creek
David Womacks, Public Works Director, City of Oakland Park

Other Attendees:

Michael Bechtold, FDEP
J. Martin Cala, City of Lauderhill
Albert Carbon, Public Works Director, City of Fort Lauderdale
John Crouse, Broward County WWS
Ed Dion, Nabors Giblin
Toni Edwards, Broward County NRPMD
Michelle Glenn
Barry Heimlich, FAU-CUES
Gary Hines, School Board of Broward County
Glenn Humphrey, MWH, Inc.
Keith London, Commissioner, City of Hallandale Beach
Stew Magenheimer, CDM
Marcia Monserrat, Broward County
Bob Moresi, Black & Veatch
Carole Morris, Broward Service Center, SFWMD
Robert Rudolph, NRPMD
Lawrence Teich, City of Fort Lauderdale
Elbert Waters, SFWMD
Patti Webster, Broward County NRPMD
Michael Zygnerski, Broward County NRPMD

